



# ecology and environment, inc.

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International Specialists in the Environmental Sciences

DATE: February 2, 1983  
TO: File/USEPA Region V  
FROM: Mark Lunsford  
SUBJECT: Preliminary Assessment  
Ohio/TDD#R5-8212-05A, PAG#241  
Salem/Nease Chemical Company  
OHD980610018

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



231104

Attached is EPA's Preliminary Assessment Form 2070-12 for the above referenced site.

Primary information was gathered from the following source(s):

1. Ecology and Environment files - including safety plan, site inspection report, HRS worksheets
2. USEPA files - Region V, Chicago
3. Ohio EPA - Conversation with Garry Gifford - NEDO

Information indicates the following responsible parties should be listed. They are listed here because of space limitations:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Presently, data gaps or no verification exists in the following key area(s):

1. Breakdown on quantities of different waste types on site.
- 2.
- 3.

A review of the available data indicates that additional information will be necessary to assess the impact(s) on:

1. Groundwater
2. Surface water of Little Beaver Creek
3. Extent of soil contamination
- 4.
- 5.

Suggested methods/sources for obtaining additional information are:

1. Gary Gifford, Ohio EPA, NE District Office, Twinsburg, OH
2. Nease Chemical Company records
3. Rudolf Schuller, SMC Martin, Inc./P.O. Box 859, Valley Forge, PA 19482
4. J. Baronzzi - (216) 424-3211

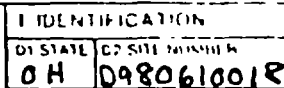
Notice of an apparent need for emergency action was transmitted to None on none  
by none.

## COMMENTS

1. Plant produced chloramine B (used in Drano), benzosulfonic acid, hexachloroethylene (a confirmed kepone product). Also kepone was thought to be produced, but this claim is disputed. Other pesticide and fire retardant products were manufactured there also.
2. Reactions at plant commonly used  $\text{Cl}_2$ , Oleum,  $\text{HNO}_3$ ,  $\text{HCl}$ ,  $\text{NH}_3$  and chlorosulfonic acid.
3. In 1972 nearby residents filed a "public nuisance" suit in County Court against Nease Chemical and won. Case uncovered poor wastewater practices at plant, which gave Court of EPA cause to shut down the operations there.
4. Owners of the site have shown that they are willing to improve conditions there by hiring a consulting firm, SMC Martin, Incorporated of Valley Forge, PA, to conduct a full field investigation of the site to determine the extent of contamination and to evaluate feasible remedial plans. To date a magnetometer survey, fence installation to secure the site and sampling of soil, sediments and surface water have been completed. Backhoes have been used to excavate areas where buried drums are suspected. Monitoring wells were drilled and sampled. No results are yet available from SMC Martin's sampling.

LM

|  |   |  |                                  |
|--|---|--|----------------------------------|
| <div style="display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> <b>POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE<br/>PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT</b><br/> <b>PART 1 - SITE INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT</b> </div>  |   | <b>I. IDENTIFICATION</b><br>01 STATE   02 SITE NUMBER<br><div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">OH   D990610018</div>   |                                  |
| <b>II. SITE NAME AND LOCATION</b>  |   |  |                                  |
| 01 SITE NAME (Legal common or descriptive name of site)<br><b>Nease Chemical Co.</b>   |   | 02 STREET ROUTE NO. OR SPECIFIC LOCATION IDENTIFIER<br>(west of Salem)<br><b>Route #14 alternate &amp; Benton Rd.</b>  |                                  |
| 03 CITY<br><b>Salem (closest city)</b>   | 04 STATE   05 ZIP CODE   06 COUNTY<br><b>OH   44460   Mahoning*</b> | 07 COUNTY CODE<br><b>099</b>   | 08 CONG DIST<br><b>19</b>        |
| 09 COORDINATES LATITUDE<br><b>40° 55' 01.2"</b>  |   | LONGITUDE<br><b>080° 53' 28.7"</b>   |                                  |
| 10 DIRECTIONS TO SITE (Starting from nearest public road)<br><b>From downtown Salem, head west on W. State St. Turn right (north) on Route 14-A. Continue for ~1.5 miles. Site will be on right. Turn in at access road.<br/>* Site is in Mahoning; Salem is in Columbia County.</b>   |   |  |                                  |
| <b>III. RESPONSIBLE PARTIES</b>  |   |  |                                  |
| 01 OWNER (if known)<br><b>Harold E. Klatz</b>  |   | 02 STREET (Business mailing residential)<br><b>PO Box 221</b>  |                                  |
| 03 CITY<br><b>State College</b>  | 04 STATE   05 ZIP CODE<br><b>PA   16801</b>                         | 06 TELEPHONE NUMBER<br><b>(814) 238-1274</b>   |                                  |
| 07 OPERATOR (if known and different from owner)<br><b>Same as owner</b>  |   | 08 STREET (Business mailing residential)   |                                  |
| 09 CITY  | 10 STATE   11 ZIP CODE  | 12 TELEPHONE NUMBER<br>( )   |                                  |
| 13 TYPE OF OWNERSHIP (Check one)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A PRIVATE <input type="checkbox"/> B FEDERAL _____ (Agency name)<br><input type="checkbox"/> C STATE <input type="checkbox"/> D COUNTY <input type="checkbox"/> E MUNICIPAL<br><input type="checkbox"/> F OTHER _____ (Specify)<br><input type="checkbox"/> G UNKNOWN  |   |  |                                  |
| 14 OWNER/OPERATOR NOTIFICATION ON FILE (Check all that apply)<br><input type="checkbox"/> A RCRA 3001 DATE RECEIVED <u>NONE</u> MONTH DAY YEAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B UNCONTROLLED WASTE SITE (RCRA 103(c)) DATE RECEIVED <u>6/11/81</u> MONTH DAY YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> C NONE   |   |  |                                  |
| <b>IV. CHARACTERIZATION OF POTENTIAL HAZARD</b>  |   |  |                                  |
| 01 ON SITE INSPECTION<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES DATE <u>12/4/80</u> MONTH DAY YEAR<br><input type="checkbox"/> NO <u>12/8/82</u>  |   | BY (Check all that apply)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A EPA <input type="checkbox"/> B EPA CONTRACTOR <input type="checkbox"/> C STATE <input type="checkbox"/> D OTHER CONTRACTOR<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E. LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIAL <input type="checkbox"/> F OTHER <u>S.M.C. Inc.</u> (Specify)<br>CONTRACTOR NAME(S) <u>Ecology &amp; Environment, Inc.</u> |                                  |
| 02 SITE STATUS (Check one)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A. ACTIVE <input type="checkbox"/> B INACTIVE <input type="checkbox"/> C. UNKNOWN  |   | 03 YEARS OF OPERATION<br>BEGINNING YEAR <u>1961</u>   ENDING YEAR <u>1973</u> <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN   |                                  |
| 04 DESCRIPTION OF SUBSTANCES POSSIBLY PRESENT, KNOWN, OR ALLEGED<br><b>acid sludges (toxic/corrosive/persistent); oily wastes (soluble/flamable); halogenated solvents (ignitable/volatile); pesticides including kepone (toxic/carcinogen/neurotoxin); Mirv (insecticide/fire retardant); and methoxychlor</b>  |   |  |                                  |
| 05 DESCRIPTION OF POTENTIAL HAZARD TO ENVIRONMENT AND/OR POPULATION<br><b>leaching of wastes into surface water (environment/population)<br/>leaching into groundwater (environment/population)<br/>soil contamination (direct contact/environment/population)</b>   |   |  |                                  |
| <b>V. PRIORITY ASSESSMENT</b>  |   |  |                                  |
| 01 PRIORITY FOR INSPECTION (Check one. If high or medium is checked, complete Part 2 - Waste information and Part 3 - Description of Hazardous Conditions and incidents)<br><input type="checkbox"/> A. HIGH (Inspection required promptly) <input type="checkbox"/> B. MEDIUM (Inspection required) <input type="checkbox"/> C. LOW (Inspection on time available basis) <input type="checkbox"/> D. NONE (No further action needed, complete current disposition form) |   |  |                                  |
| <b>VI. INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM</b>  |   |  |                                  |
| 01 CONTACT<br><b>Gary Gifford</b>  |   | 02 OF (Agency/Organization)<br><b>OSPA, NE District Office-Twinsburg, OH</b>   |                                  |
| 04 PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSESSMENT   |   | 05 AGENCY  | 06 ORGANIZATION                  |
|  |   | 07 TELEPHONE NUMBER<br>( )   | 08 DATE<br>/ /<br>MONTH DAY YEAR |





POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE  
PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

PART 3 - DESCRIPTION OF HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND INCIDENTS

I. IDENTIFICATION

01 STATE 02 SITE NUMBER  
OH 980610018

II. HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND INCIDENTS

01 ☒ A GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION

03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED 1200

02 ☒ OBSERVED (DATE Summer 1982)

☒ POTENTIAL

☐ ALLEGED

04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

1200 people who live within a three-mile radius do not use city water and rely on their own wells. OEPA sampling in summer 1982 showed the following contaminants in monitoring wells: methoxychlor, Mirex, Kepone, phenyl sulfonone, dichlorobenzene, dioctyl phthalate.

01 ☒ B SURFACE WATER CONTAMINATION

03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED 7

02 ☒ OBSERVED (DATE before 1973)

☐ POTENTIAL

☒ ALLEGED

04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Fish kills have occurred in the Middle Fork of Little Beaver Creek. OEPA sampling results from summer 1982 showed phenyl sulfonone to be present in a ditch on site and dichlorobenzene and dioctyl phthalate were found in ditch sediments.

01 ☒ C CONTAMINATION OF AIR

03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED 7155

02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE before 1973)

☒ POTENTIAL

☐ ALLEGED

04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Before closure in 1973 there were numerous complaints about odors from the public. Air monitoring was done 10/27/82; awaiting interpretation of results.

01 ☐ D FIRE/EXPLOSIVE CONDITIONS

03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE)

☐ POTENTIAL

☐ ALLEGED

04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

01 ☒ E DIRECT CONTACT

03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED 7155

02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE)

☒ POTENTIAL

☐ ALLEGED

04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Access to site thru gaps in fence. Gaps not mended until November 1982. Since lagoons have been drained and filled this would no longer seem to be of concern.

01 ☒ F CONTAMINATION OF SOIL

03 AREA POTENTIALLY AFFECTED ~100

02 ☒ OBSERVED (DATE Summer 1982)

☒ POTENTIAL

☐ ALLEGED

04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

OEPA sampling has revealed many substances in onsite soils including: toluene; Mirex; methoxychlor; p-nitroacetophenone; diphenyl and phenyl sulfonone; benzil; benzaldehyde; benzophenone; bromoacetophenone; hexachlorobutadiene; benzene's chloro and hexachloro; di and tetra-chloroethanes; tetra- and tri-chloroethylene.

01 ☒ G DRINKING WATER CONTAMINATION

03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED 1200

02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE)

☒ POTENTIAL

☐ ALLEGED

04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Nearby residents have complained of odor and bad taste in their water, but sampling by OEPA has revealed contamination in only 1 of 19 wells tested.

01 ☒ H WORKER EXPOSURE/INJURY

03 WORKERS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: ~100

02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE)

☐ POTENTIAL

☒ ALLEGED

04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Many workers had to be treated for chlorane over a period of 4 or 5 years.

01 ☒ I. POPULATION EXPOSURE/INJURY

03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED 2400

02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE)

☒ POTENTIAL

☐ ALLEGED

04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Problem exists through ground water and surface water contamination.



POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE  
PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT  
PART 3 - DESCRIPTION OF HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND INCIDENTS

I. IDENTIFICATION  
01 STATE 02 SITE NUMBER  
OH D980610018

II. HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND INCIDENTS (Continued)

01 ☒ J DAMAGE TO FLORA  
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE \_\_\_\_\_) ☐ POTENTIAL ☒ ALLEGED

Undated letter in FIT file mentioned that trees had died in a wooded area northeast of one of the north lagoons.

01 ☒ K DAMAGE TO FAUNA  
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (include name(s) of species)

02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE before 1973) ☐ POTENTIAL ☒ ALLEGED

Fish kills occurred in the Middle Fork of Little Beaver Creek.

01 ☒ L CONTAMINATION OF FOOD CHAIN  
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE \_\_\_\_\_) ☒ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED

Fish kills would indicate that food web of Little Beaver Creek was adversely impacted - at least in the short term.

01 ☒ M. UNSTABLE CONTAINMENT OF WASTES

02 ☒ OBSERVED (DATE 12/4/80) ☐ POTENTIAL ☒ ALLEGED

(Spills, runoff, seepage, leaks, etc.)

03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED 7155

04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Plant closed because of poor wastewater operations. Leaky drums were buried. Unlined lagoons were drained but inadequately filled. Leachate from lagoons.

01 ☐ N DAMAGE TO OFFSITE PROPERTY  
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE \_\_\_\_\_) ☐ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED

01 ☐ O CONTAMINATION OF SEWERS, STORM DRAINS, WWTPs  
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE \_\_\_\_\_) ☐ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED

01 ☒ P ILLEGAL/UNAUTHORIZED DUMPING  
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE \_\_\_\_\_) ☒ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED

Plant was built on top of the old city dump.

05 DESCRIPTION OF ANY OTHER KNOWN, POTENTIAL, OR ALLEGED HAZARDS

III. TOTAL POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: ~7155

IV. COMMENTS

- see attached page after Cover Letter -

V. SOURCES OF INFORMATION (Cite specific references, e.g., state laws, sample analysis, reports)

Gary Gifford, OEPA NE District Office Twinsburg, OH  
E&E files - includes Site Inspection, Report, HRS worksheets, air sampling results  
USEPA Chicago, IL